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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

3 NOVEMBER 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Diego – Smoke Shop Busted for Synthetic Drugs

(U) Narcotics officers raided a Hillcrest smoke shop and arrested a clerk suspected of possessing a third of a pound of the synthetic drug Spice and nearly \$5,000 in cash. The raid at Godfather Smoke resulted in the arrest of 55-year-old Loay Lawrence, who's also suspected of possessing 375 pills of the synthetic drug Kratom. Narcotics detectives began investigating the Godfather Smoke Shop after receiving a tip that Spice was being sold there. He faces criminal and civil penalties of up to six months in jail, three years of probation, and a \$1,000 fine.

SOURCE: 2 November 2017, [CBS 8 San Diego](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Colorado – Eight Million Dollars' Worth of Heroin Seized

(U) Pueblo – Police yesterday announced the seizure of \$8 million in heroin, 50 grams of cocaine, 2.5 pounds of meth, 35 firearms, and \$540,000 in cash in one of the largest busts in Colorado history. Police, flanked by the Colorado US Attorney General's Office and the FBI Denver Division, announced the massive drug recovery and the five associated arrests in a news conference late yesterday morning. The heroin alone could be cut for 40,000 users, and the alleged intent was to sell within Pueblo rather than to sell to other cities, according to police.

SOURCE: 2 November 2017, [KKTU 11 News](#)

(U) North Carolina – FBI Accuses Man of Lying About Support for ISIS

(U) Fayetteville – A man has been charged with immigration and tax violations after federal authorities say he lied by denying being associated with ISIS. Houcine Bechir Ghoul is charged with attempted unlawful procurement of citizenship or naturalization and filing false tax returns. Federal authorities say that Ghoul lied when he said that he had no association with any terrorist organization and that he supported the Constitution of the United States, among other things. According to the criminal complaint, the FBI started investigating Ghoul back in 2014. They say a confidential source sent the FBI screenshots from Ghoul's Facebook page in which he indicates his support for ISIS.

SOURCE: 2 November 2017, [CBS North Carolina](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Mexico – Gang Leader Killed at Hospital During Plastic Surgery

(U) Mexico City – A leader of a Mexican fuel-theft gang was shot to death at a hospital where he was undergoing plastic surgery to change his appearance. Puebla state prosecutors said Jesus Martin, a woman, and two other men were killed at the hospital, apparently by members of his own gang. The killing comes amid an upsurge in violence involving pipeline thieves in the state, where at least 16 people have been slain this week in apparent disputes between gangs.

SOURCE: 2 November 2017, [Associated Press](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) Somalia – Ethiopia troops enter Somalia to Hunt al-Shabab**

(U) Mogadishu – Thousands of Ethiopian troops have crossed into Somalia to join a large-scale offensive against al-Shabab extremists just weeks after Somalia's worst attack left more than 350 people dead. Somalia is preparing for an offensive with African Union multinational forces that is meant to push al-Shabab fighters out of their strongholds in Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle regions, where many deadly attacks on Mogadishu and Somali and African Union bases have been launched. Ethiopia's foreign minister, Workineh Gebeyehu, confirmed that troops had entered Somalia.

SOURCE: 2 November 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Switzerland – UN Reports ISIS Committed Serious Crimes amid Mosul Campaign

(U) Geneva – A new United Nations report has found that ISIS committed serious international crimes such as using civilians as human shields during the Iraqi military's nine-month campaign to liberate the city of Mosul. The report published yesterday by the UN assistance Mission for Iraq and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is based on witness testimony. It documents the mass abduction of civilians, the intentional shelling of civilian residences, and indiscriminate targeting of civilians trying to flee the city. Mosul fell to ISIS in a matter of days in 2014, but the campaign to retake the city lasted nearly nine months. The fight, closely backed by airstrikes from the US-led coalition, brought an end to the extremists' so-called territorial caliphate.

SOURCE: 2 November 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) Arizona – Man Arrested After Three Mexican Nationals Found in Car Trunk**

(U) Amado – Border Patrol agents apprehended an armed 29-year-old Tucson man at an immigration checkpoint after finding three Mexican nationals hidden in the trunk of his car. Earlier this week, agents sent the man for a secondary inspection of his Dodge Dart after an agency dog alerted to an odor in the car, according to a news release from US Customs and Border Protection. Agents discovered the illegal immigrants when they opened the vehicle's trunk. Agents also found a loaded 9mm pistol in the center console. Agents arrested the man on suspicion of human smuggling and seized his vehicle and gun.

SOURCE: 2 November 2017, [Tucson.com](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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